

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A cleaning apparatus for cleaning non-contact optical sensors in a paper handling device comprising:

a substrate sheet for feeding through a feed path of the paper handling device having a substrate width and a substrate length, a first surface and a second surface and having a substrate thickness, wherein the first surface has a front edge, a rear edge, a left edge and a right edge;

a first strip of material having a first strip height and attached to the first surface of the substrate sheet across the entire width of the substrate and oriented perpendicular to the feed path, wherein the first strip will vertically compress when drawn through a roller nip and partially vertically decompress when exiting the roller nip in order to engage the optical sensors below the feed path;

a second strip of material having a first strip height and attached to the first surface of the substrate sheet across the entire width of the substrate and oriented perpendicular to the feed path, wherein the second strip will vertically compress when drawn through a roller nip and partially vertically decompress when exiting the roller nip in order to engage the optical sensors below the feed path; and, wherein,

the first strip is separated from the second strip in the direction of the feed path by a first distance; and

the first strip height is relatively large compared to the substrate thickness and the first strip height when partially decompressed is sufficiently large to extend below the feed path to engage the optical sensors, and wherein the substrate length is greater than the substrate width.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,

the first surface is an upper surface and the second surface is a lower surface.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein,
the first strip of material comprises open cell foam.
4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein,
the first strip of material is closer to the front edge of the substrate sheet than
the second strip of material; and
the second strip of material comprises open cell foam and brush bristles.
5. (canceled).
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the substrate sheet has approximately the planar dimensions of a number 10
envelope.
7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising,
a leading edge handle on the substrate sheet.
8. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the substrate sheet has approximately the planar dimensions of a letter sized
sheet of paper and the first strip height is more than double the substrate thickness.
9. (canceled).
10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the first strip height is approximately twelve times the substrate thickness; and
the first strip having a width that is relatively narrow compared to a diameter of
a roller in order to allow the first strip to vertically decompress when exiting the roller
nip.
11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,

the substrate comprises a semi-rigid vinyl material.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the substrate comprises an ABS material of approximately 0.0625 inches thickness.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the first strip having a first strip width; and wherein
the first distance is approximately five times the first strip width.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein,
the first strip width is 0.5 inches.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the first strip has the shape of a rectangular prism.

16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the first strip height is approximately 0.75 inches, the first strip having a width of
0.5 inches; and
wherein the first distance is 2.5 inches.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
at least one of the first and second strips has the shape of a triangular prism.

19. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the first strip includes a top surface and has the shape of a rectangular prism
having at least one notch in the top surface.

20. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the first strip includes a leading edge and has the shape of a rectangular prism
having an angled portion of the leading edge removed.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein,
the first strip having a width that is relatively narrow compared to the first
distance in order to allow the first strip to vertically decompress when exiting the roller
nip.

22. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising,
a third strip of material having a first strip height and attached to the first surface
of the substrate sheet across the entire width of the substrate and oriented
perpendicular to the feed path, wherein the second strip will vertically compress when
drawn through a roller nip and partially vertically decompress when exiting the roller
nip in order to engage the optical sensors below the feed path, wherein the second
strip is separated from the third in the direction of the feed path by a first distance;
a fourth strip of material having a first strip height and attached to the first
surface of the substrate sheet across the entire width of the substrate and oriented
perpendicular to the feed path, wherein the second strip will vertically compress when
drawn through a roller nip and partially vertically decompress when exiting the roller
nip in order to engage the optical sensors below the feed path, wherein the third strip
is separated from the fourth in the direction of the feed path by a first distance; and
a fifth strip of material having a first strip height and attached to the first surface
of the substrate sheet across the entire width of the substrate and oriented
perpendicular to the feed path, wherein the second strip will vertically compress when
drawn through a roller nip and partially vertically decompress when exiting the roller
nip in order to engage the optical sensors below the feed path, wherein the fourth strip
is separated from the fifth in the direction of the feed path by a first distance, wherein

the first, second, third, fourth and fifth strips of material comprise lint-free, lead-free, non-abrasive, open cell foam and the second strip of material includes brush bristles.

23. (new) A cleaning apparatus for cleaning non-contact optical sensors in a paper handling device comprising:

a substrate sheet for feeding through a feed path of the paper handling device having a first surface and a second surface and having a substrate thickness, wherein the first surface has a front edge, a rear edge, a left edge and a right edge;

a first strip of material having a first strip height and attached to the first surface of the substrate sheet and oriented perpendicular to the feed path, wherein the first strip will vertically compress when drawn through a roller nip and partially vertically decompress when exiting the roller nip in order to engage the optical sensors below the feed path;

a second strip of material having a first strip height and attached to the first surface of the substrate sheet and oriented perpendicular to the feed path, wherein the second strip will vertically compress when drawn through a roller nip and partially vertically decompress when exiting the roller nip in order to engage the optical sensors below the feed path; and, wherein,

the first strip is separated from the second strip in the direction of the feed path by a first distance; and

the first strip height is relatively large compared to the substrate thickness and the first strip height when partially decompressed is sufficiently large to extend below the feed path to engage the optical sensors, wherein,

the first surface is an upper surface and the second surface is a lower surface,

the first strip of material comprises open cell foam, and

the first strip of material comprises lint-free, lead-free, non-abrasive, open cell foam.